RULES

OF

Accommodation

AS DRAWN UP BY A SELECT

Committee of *Gentlemen*,

Appointed for that Purpoſe, in order to eſtabliſh a right Underſtanding between the Town and the Manager of Smock-Alley Theatre.

Humbly ſubmitted to the CONSIDERATION of the PUBLIC.

To which is annex'd,

A Number of new TOASTS, to be drank by the Reconcilers at their next Meeting at the *Phanix* Tavern.

Ridiculum Acri.

DUBLIN:

Printed in the Year 1754.

R U L E S

OF

Accommodation

FOR

Gentlemen,

Appointed for the Purpose, in order to establish a Night Coaching between the Town and the Manger of Brick-Alley Theatre.

Humbly submitted to the CONSIDERATION of the PUBLIC.

A Number of new Tickets, to be issued by the Proprietors at their next Meeting at the Theatre Royal.

Publicum Jus.

RULES of Accommodation, &c.

WHEREAS a Number of Gentlemen, Lovers of polite Amuſements, being thoroughly convinc'd of what great Importance to their Pleaſures, and other Benefits of Life, is the Continuance of a well regulated Playhouſe in this flouriſhing Metropolis; and fearing through their late Miſconſtruction of the Manager's Intentions, that all Diverſions of that Kind muſt ceaſe, as he is now reſolv'd to leave us; and being juſtly apprehenſive what Confuſion ſuch a Diſſolution muſt cauſe among all Orders and Degrees of People, who will be at their Wits End how to conduct their Affairs when ſuch Direction or Clue to their Underſtandings is taken from them, have appointed a Committee, of which we the undernamed Perſons are chiefly compoſed, to think of Ways and Means for preventing ſo great and national a Calamity: And we having met, and duly conſider'd the ſame, are come *Nemine Contradicente*, to the following Reſolutions:

RULES *and* RESOLUTIONS *to be obſerved by the ſeveral Gen'l men reſorting Playhouſes, and the Players thereof, for their future Conduct and right underſtanding of each other; drawn up and delivered at a Meeting of the Committee this* 25*th Day of* March 1754.

Reſolved,

Firſt, That it is the Benefit of all Mankind that Playhouſes ſhould be ſupported.

Secondly, That Managers are neceſſary for the Direction of them.

Thirdly, That Decency ſhould be preſerved there.

Fourthly, That a Player's is an honourable Profeſſion.

Fifthly, That the State is indebted to them for many Favours.

Sixthly,

Sixthly, That there would be no Morality or Religion without them.

Seventhly, That they are the greateſt Ornaments of a Community.

Eighthly, That they make Caſh circulate.

Ninthly, and Laſtly, That they are the Means of enriching the Kingdom by keeping our wandering Nobility among us; who, if they would not be entertain'd with ſuch Amuſements at home, would certainly ſeek them elſewhere.-------Theſe being the RESOLUTIONS agreed to, it was thought farther neceſſary that an Illuſtration of each Particular ſhould be enter'd into for the better informing Mens Minds, and preventing all Grounds of Diſpute for the future. And having weigh'd each Reſolution apart, the following is our definite Senſe of them:

Firſt, By a Playhouſe, we underſtand any large Structure of Brick or Stone, furniſh'd with Scenes, Seats, *&c.* for the Conveniency and Pleaſure of Spectators, capable of holding at leaſt 1000 Souls, Actors included; who, it is ſuppos'd, if their Number be properly complete will amount to one Third. This Houſe to be plac'd in ſo convenient a Spot that all Parts of the Town may have eaſy Acceſs thereto: And that all due Attendance be given from Two in the Afternoon till Seven at Night, to let the Spectators in. For ſince Taſte has arriv'd to ſo great a Height in this polite City, 'tis obſervable, that the Poor and middling Sort prefer the Pleaſure of ſeeing Plays to the eating of their Dinners: Therefore 'tis neceſſary that all due Encouragement ſhould be given to ſo prevailing a Paſſion, and that Tradeſmen and their Wives may have as great an Opportunity of ſpending as much of their Time in Playhouſes as poſſible.

Secondly, Becauſe much Altercation of late has happened between Gentlemen and Players, touching their reſpective Prerogatives, 'tis apprehended the Duty of a Manager is to domineer in his own Limits; be faſtidious and petulant to thoſe under him, but extremely complying and ſubmiſſive to the Gentlemen whoſe Favour he lives by; That he be always ready

dy to play ſuch Plays as the Town ſhall require of him, without conſulting his own Judgment. And if at any Time they ſhould unluckily hit upon a good one, he ſhall be at full Liberty to caſtrate and mangle it, that the Wit and Judgment of it give no Offence. In other Matters he muſt be directed as we pleaſe, and never refuſe to make Repitition of Speeches tho' call'd for twenty Times over.

Thirdly, By Decency we mean Propriety; that is that every Spectator before the Play begins, and between the Acts have full Liberty to Hollow, Shout and Groan, aſſault with Orange Peels the Muſick Core, break Fidlers Inſtruments, crack ill-manner'd Jeſts on their Betters, and be as barbarous in all Points as poſſible. But the Minute the Curtain is drawn up this Humour is to ceaſe; and they are never to ſtirr after but when ſome Rant engage their Wonder, or ſmutty Jeſt their Applauſe: a very few excepted to regulate themſelves by the Conduct of theſe, and preſerve through the Houſe one uniform and Gothic Harmony.

Fourthly, That it ſhall be unlawful to call the Honour or Virtue of any one Actor or Actreſs in Diſpute be they ever ſo infamous: That in all publick Meetings, Aſſemblies, *&c.* they be entertain'd with the higheſt Reſpect; that as to Precedency an Actor's kept Miſtreſs may take Place of a Fidler's Wife, tho' lawfully married; and he who ſhall dare to call him a Rogue, or her a Whore ſhall incur a Primunire, and ſuffer the Reſentment of the Gentlemen accordingly.

And Fifthly, Becauſe it is notorious from their frequently acting Kings and Emperors, that they muſt be well vers'd in the Arcana's of State, 'tis thought proper to inſinuate that two or more of their Body be added to a certain great Council, to help them out in all weighty Deliberations. So ſhall the Nation be reliev'd from Fears of Plots upon its Liberties, when it ſhall be known that the Players have the Cabal in Direction; and a reciprocal Advantage may be gained thereby, for as Farces are generally acted in both Places, they may in Time come to join Companies,

and

and a great Uniformity reſult to their Meaſures from each Man's acting the Part he ſeems from Principle and Nature moſt fitted for.

Sixthly, This Article we muſt own, at its firſt Appearance, ſeems to be the greateſt Paradox of any yet offer'd; but whoever conſiders how all Virtues and Qualities in Life are brighten'd and made more manifeſt by Contraſt, will eaſily own, that the Purity of Religion and good Manners is no where better oppos'd than by the atheiſtical and debauch'd Principles of Players. If then they illuſtrate Virtue, they help it; and he who helps her muſt neceſſarily be a Friend. 'Tis upon this Reaſon and none other that we pretend to, are Players ſuppos'd to be Promoters of good Manners and Chriſtianity.

Seventhly, This Article ſhall not be inſiſted on, as it is already prov'd by that ingenious Author, Mr. *Chetwood*, in his Lives of the *Iriſh* Comedians, to which Book for our further Eaſe we refer the Reader.

Eighthly, That they make Caſh circulate is a Truth well known, for they of all Men hoard the leaſt of any. Their public Coffer is the great Reſervoir that receives all the looſe and idle Money of the City: Which are no ſooner got than they remit back to the Public by ſundry and various Canals, and are as it were the very Heart of Trade, which ſets the Life, Blood of it a flowing. How nearly then ought Mechanicks to be concern'd in their Preſervation, whoſe Generoſity they have often experienc'd; for give one of theſe but Credit for what he buys and he will not ſcruple to allow three times the Worth of the Commodity. 'Tis true, they are apt to make Dooms-Day Debts of them, but what is fairer than to refer Things to an Account in which there can poſſibly be no Deceit, and where even their Conſciences muſt force them to give Teſtimony in their Creditors Favour.

Ninthly and laſtly, I believe 'tis a Truth well known all the World over, the roving Diſpoſition of our Nobility and Gentry, and that any Country ſeems pleaſanter to them than their own. What then can hinder the few remaining to follow the reſt, if they are depriv'd of the Man whoſe acting they moſtly admir'd,

mir'd, the great Mr. *Sh-----n?* will there be any Entertainment here left, when he is gone, worth the reſorting to? will not Trade decay, Arts periſh, and the very Foundations of our Conſtitution be utterly overthrown if he be baniſh'd. It was the near Proſpect of theſe ſhocking Calamities that firſt ſet us on ſeeking ſuitable Remedies, which can be effected in no better Way than ſtill keeping his Perſon, though contrary to his own Inclination among us. 'Tis true, he has made no Overtures yet towards an Avowal of his late Miſconduct, but as there is Reaſon to believe he repents tho' he is aſham'd to own it, 'tis hop'd the Town will not be ſo rigid to exact from him greater Submiſſion than he is willing to give, but overlook this Matter with a ſlight Indifference, eſpecially as it is more our own Intereſts and the Publick's we ſeek than his. All Perſons therefore who are willing to give a Hand to ſo ſalutary a Work, are deſir'd to repair to the Bar of the *Phanix* Tavern, and enter their Names in a Book that ſhall there be depoſited for that Purpoſe; to the End that a proper Dinner be provided, and Toaſts ſuitable to the Occaſion drank; which Toaſts, with theſe Reſolutions, we have ordered previouſly to be printed for the Gentlemens greater Facility in retaining them. Given at our Chamber this 25th Day of *March*, 1754.

And ſigned,

Henry Adlepate, Preſident.
Thomas Fickle,
Edward Froth,
Narciſſus Glitter,
Timothy Tapleſs,
Robert Thickſcull,
Nicholas No-Thought,
Anthony Love-Traſh,
Benjamin Booby,
William Rattlehead,
John Rant,
Robert Blunder.

HENRY SP——GER,
Clerk to the Committe.

TOASTS to be drank by the GENTLEMEN aſſembled for the re-eſtabliſhing of SMOCK-ALLEY Theatre.

1. *THE Royal Family, not forgetting the Manager of* Smock-Alley *Theatre.*

2. *Confuſion to the* Kings, *and all Mr.* S——n's *Enemies.*

3. *May Arts and Sciences never gain Footing in this Kingdom.*

4. *To all thoſe who dare be ſtupid in the brighteſt of Times.*

5. *A ſpeedy Exportation of Wit along with Rottenſtone.*

6. *May the ingenious Men of* Ireland *never eat the Bread, drink the Drink, nor kiſs the pretty Girls thereof.*

7. *Diſappointment to all ſuch Writers who would force Taſte on us contrary to our Inclinations.*

8. *The Scriblers of* Ireland *for ever! and the noble Earl or Earls who ſupports them.*

9. *May Ignorance never be run down in this proſperous Iſland.*

10. *The College in its preſent Situation.*

11. *A Groan for* SHAKESPEAR.

12. *Confuſion to the Memory of* BEN JOHNSON.

13. *The glorious and immortal Memory of* CIBBER, *and* FARQUHAR.

14. *To the Biſhop who wrote againſt Religion.*

15. *To the reſt who neglected to defend it.*

16. *Licenciouſneſs for ever!*

17. *May Smut and Ribaldry prevail, while Modeſty and good Senſe are forc'd to hide in Corners.*

18. *No Bounds to Scurrility!*

19. *The Beaver's Fate to the Man who does not love Whoring.*

20. *Loyalty and Drunkenneſs.*

21. *May the Slavery of living ſober, and thinking to the Purpoſe, never be entail'd on the Inhabitants of this free Country.*

22. *May Cocking, Gaming, Racing, go on in their preſent Courſe, and Debauchery never ceaſe 'till it ends in the Ruin of the Abbettors Eſtates and Conſtitutions.*

23. *More Idleneſs and leſs Induſtry.*

24. *May Tyranny in Landlords ceaſe when 'tis too late to amend it; and may all Advice be deſpis'd, or come too late, that would advance the Wealth or Happineſs of this Iſland.*

Harvard College Library
Gift of
Harold F. White
March 19, 1951